



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Meeting Minutes: October 2, 2008

Present: Guido, Marquez, Marshall, Mootchnik, Schaaf, Soutner
Absent: Justice, Rice, Smith
City Staff: Rosemary Medel
Commission: None
Liaisons: None
Public: None
Guests: None

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting started at 6:33 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes for the September 4, 2008 meeting.

III. Public Comments

None

IV. Action Items:

1. Review of Topics with the Board's Purview:
 - a. There was a public hearing for the Talbert Lake Diversion project. Concern was expressed about the loss of open area that would result by water sent to Talbert Lake in Central Park.
 - b. The Planning Commission approved the Ripcurl EIR and CUP. The Commission did suggest reducing the total amount of units in the project.
 - c. The Executive Committee met with Alex Wong of Red Oak Investment. Red Oak is the Ripcurl developer. Ripcurl is planned to be a high-end sustainable development that includes Green Building features. Mr. Wong conveyed to the Executive Committee that Red Oak does want to integrate that project with nearby new projects like the Village at Bella Terra. The Committee did express concerns about the unit density of the project that is above the allowable and, that if given the variance, other projects outside the Bella Terra area would seek similar variances.
2. There was a discussion about EB members attending and speaking at various public hearings. It was agreed that the EB should be represented more often at City Council meetings, Planning Commission study sessions and public hearings, and various City Staff public hearings. EB members could and should represent the Board at these hearings and need to adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. Take several copies of EB submitted letters or meeting minutes on the subject topic to distribute to group conducting the hearing.

- b. Talk about the items included in the EB documentation and do not stray into other areas.
 - c. Prior to attending, let the other EB members know you are going to the meeting via email.
3. Energy Fair – The Energy Fair was a success with attendance greater than expected. There were many visitors to the EB's booth. Fifty copies of the Green Scorecard were handed out. The Scorecard was emailed to the others who came and signed up on the list. The EB pamphlets and Environmental Awards application forms were well distributed also.
4. General Plan/Circulation Element/Traffic Level Ratings – The City is updating the Circulation Element of the General Plan. It will take approximately 6 months to do this update. The EB is concerned about the increasing levels of traffic in HB along with the new developments that will add even more cars to HB's streets. Dave Mootchnik drafted a letter that addresses these concerns. Dave Guido will submit a final version of the letter to the City Council.
5. Golden West College Open Space – Open area around Golden West College could be used for parks for the upcoming Village at Bella Terra, Ripcurl, and Beach/Edinger Corridor projects. Craig Justice will compose a letter to recommend developing parks in these open spaces.
6. Environmental sub-committee reports:
- a. Energy/Green – (Mootchnik, Guido, Smith, Marshall). The Green Building sub-committee, made up of the Green Building Committee's Planning Commission and Environmental Board representatives, has put together a Green Building Check List. A pilot program is ongoing for residential remodels and residential new developments. The pilot program will have 3-5 projects and last 3-6 months. The EB will administer the program. Applicants will receive a cover letter describing the program, the Green Building Check List, and an application. Once an applicant completes their project they will submit their completed paperwork, their project will be reviewed, and, if accepted, will receive recognition for their work. One application has been received so far.
 - b. Liquid/Solid Waste – (Justice, Schaaf, Soutner, Marquez). No update
 - c. Business and Public Education – (Smith, Soutner, Rice, Marquez). No update
 - d. Environmental Awards – (Smith, Justice, Guido). Information and the award application are on the HB web site. No applications have been received at this point. Applications were distributed at the Energy Fair. The deadline for applications is October 15th.

V. Information Items:

1. Water Quality Update – None
2. AES Update - None
3. Field Trips
 - a. LEED Building – Sue Marquez is researching a tour of the Newport Beach Environmental Nature Center Building in the next few weeks. The tour will be arranged for late afternoon. The building is eligible for LEED Platinum certification.

- b. Red Oak Investment Property in Pasadena – Red Oak (developer of the RipCurl project) is arranging a field trip for the City Council and EB. The date has not been set yet.
 - c. Water conservation project
4. Potential Speakers at upcoming meeting
 - a. New City Administrator – Rosemary Medel will try to arrange the new City Administrator to speak at the December EB meeting.
 - b. Duncan Lee of Public Works to discuss the Water Gem program. Rosemary Medel will try to get him to speak at the January EB meeting.
 - c. New HB water conservation coordinator
 5. Public School Sale – The Huntington Beach City School District turned down the City of HB's offer to purchase the LeBard School property.
 6. City Council/Planning Commission Agenda and Study Sessions
 - a. The Ripcurl project is on the November 3 City Council agenda.
 - b. The Village at Bella Terra is on the November 17 City Council agenda.
 - c. The Planning Commission will have Public Hearings on the Village at Bella Terra October 14 and 21.

VI. Administrative Items:

1. Correspondence/News Articles/Announcements – Michelle Soutner discussed a Scientific America article about the interrelationship of water and energy.
2. Items for next meeting's agenda:
 - a. Discuss the drought including water conservation and water resources
3. The next meeting will be on November 6, 2008 at 6:30 PM, City Hall Council Chambers.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.